

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-17 stand in the present application, claims 12-16 having been allowed. Accordingly, only claims 11 and 17 remain rejected. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hattori et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hattori et al. is a PCT application that was filed on July 28, 2000 and accordingly its effective § 102(e) date is March 28, 2001 which is the § 371(c)(1), (2), (4) date as stated on the face of the patent. Since Applicants' invention is entitled to a priority date of August 30, 2000, Hattori et al. does not constitute prior art against the present application. Accordingly, claims 11 and 17 are also patentable in addition to already allowed claims 12-16.

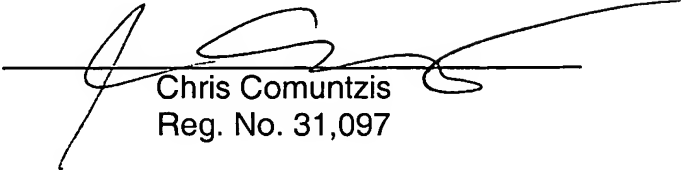
Therefore, in view of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered and that all of claims 11-17, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

FUJIMORI et al.
Appl. No. 10/791,832
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Chris Comuntzis
Reg. No. 31,097

CC:Imr
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100